1. First Embodiment

[0063] [1-1. Principle for Extracting Specified Region and Central Coordinate of Specified Region]

[0064] FIG. **1** is a view illustrating a principle based on which an information processing apparatus according to a first embodiment of the present disclosure extracts focused targets and a selection candidate from a plurality of options. As shown in FIG. **1**, an information processing apparatus **100**A according to the first embodiment of the present disclosure has a position detection surface **211**A for detecting a position of a manipulation object OP. For example, when the position detection surface **211**A is made of an electrostatic touch panel, the degree of proximity of the manipulation object OP with respect to the position detection surface **211**A is measured as a change of capacitance on the surface of the position detection surface **211**A. A position detection surface **211**B shows that the capacitance of the position detection surface **211**B is changed by the manipulation object OP that comes into contact with or in proximity to the position detection surface **211**B. In the explanation below, the change of the capacitance means, for example, the change of a value with respect to a state where the manipulation object OP is not in proximity to the position detection surface **211**.

[0065] In this case, the information processing apparatus **100**A according to the first embodiment of the present disclosure extracts, as a contact region **214**, a region in which a change of capacitance at each measurement point is more than a threshold value (for example, contact threshold value) from the position detection surface **211**D. The contact region **214** is an example of a specified region explained later. Therefore, in the explanation below, the specified region may be substituted for the contact region **214**. In this case, the threshold value is defined as the change of the capacitance when the manipulation object OP is in contact with the position detection surface **211**, and a region in which the manipulation object OP is in contact with the position detection surface **211** is extracted as the contact region **214**. Alternatively, the threshold value may be defined as the change of the capacitance when the manipulation object OP is in proximity to the position detection surface **211**. In this case, the information processing apparatus **100**A can extract, as the specified region, a region in which the manipulation object OP is in proximity to the position detection surface **211**. For example, the contact region **214** is used to extract focused targets explained later.

[0066] In this case, the information processing apparatus **100**A uses the electrostatic touch panel to measure the degree of proximity of the manipulation object OP with respect to the position detection surface **211**. However, the used touch panel is not limited to the electrostatic touch panel. For example, an optical touch panel and the like may be used to measure the degree of proximity. In this case, the information processing apparatus **100**A extracts a region in which the degree of proximity is more than the threshold value as the specified region. However, the degree of proximity to the position detection surface **211** does not have to be measured. For example, when the information processing apparatus **100**A can detect the manipulation object OP being in contact with the position detection surface **211**, the information processing apparatus **100**A can extract the specified region detected as being in contact with the manipulation object OP.

[0067] The information processing apparatus **100**A can calculate a central coordinate **212** from, for example, the contact region **214**. For example, the information processing apparatus **100**A can calculate, as the central coordinate **212**, a barycentric point of a capacitance **213** from among the measurement points on the position detection surface **211**C. However, the information processing apparatus **100**A can also calculate the central coordinate **212** using other methods. For example, a coordinate where the capacitance **213** changes the greatest may be calculated as the central coordinate **212**. Alternatively, the coordinate of the barycentric point of the contact region **214** may be calculated as the central coordinate **212** without considering the degree of proximity such as of the capacitance **213**. The central coordinate **212** is used to extract, for example, a selection candidate explained later.

[0068] According to the above control, the information processing apparatus **100**A can extract the contact region **214** and the central coordinate **212**.

[0069] [1-2. Key Input Operation with Software Keyboard]

[0070] FIG. **2** is a view illustrating an example where the information processing apparatus **100**A according to the first embodiment of the present disclosure is applied to key input operation with a software keyboard, on a mobile electronic device, such as a wireless mobile terminal. As shown in FIG. **2**, a user is trying to perform key input operation with a manipulation object OP using a software keyboard displayed in a display region **241**A of the information processing apparatus **100**A. When the user brings the manipulation object OP into contact with or in proximity to a position detection surface **211**E, the information processing apparatus **100**A extracts the contact region **214** and the central coordinate **212**. The position detection surface **211** and the display region **241** are provided on the information processing apparatus **100**A in an overlapping manner. Correspondence between overlapping positions of the position detection surface **211** and the display region **241** is managed in the information processing apparatus **100**A. Therefore, each position that overlaps in the position detection surface **211** and the display region **241** is recognized as a corresponding position by the information processing apparatus **100**A.

[0071] The information processing apparatus **100**A can extract keys, e.g., "Q", "W", "E", "R", "A", "S", "D", "F", "Z", "X", "C" (examples of alphanumeric characters) included in the contact region **214** as focused targets. The contact region may also be construed as a covered region that covers the keys within the footprint of the portion of the user's finger, or other manipulation object, that interacts with the display. Further, the information processing apparatus **100**A can extract a key, e.g., "S" at a position of the central coordinate **212** as a selection candidate. The information processing apparatus **100**A can display, for example, the keys extracted as the focused targets in such a manner that they are displayed separately from the keys to be pressed by a user. In a display region **241**B, the keys "Q", "W", "E", "R", "A", "S", "D", "F", "Z", "X", "C" extracted as the focused targets are displayed in a window WI by the information processing apparatus **100**A.

[0072] As shown in the display region **241**B, the information processing apparatus **100**A can display a key, e.g., "S", extracted as a selection candidate in such a manner that the key "S" is more conspicuous (or emphasized with, eg., color, scale, cursor, or geometric marker) than the other keys